Minutes of the
Meeting of the Executive Committee
of the World Council of Churches
20 – 21 June 2016
Trondheim, Norway

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Prayers 3

2. Opening Actions 3

2.1 Welcome 3

2.2 Roll Call 3

2.3 Approval of the Agenda 3

2.4 Approval of the Minutes 3

2.5 Sharing from the Members 4

3. Pending Matters/Documents for the Central Committee 6

3.1 Report of the Executive Committee (GEN 02) 6

3.2 Moderator's Address (GEN 01) 7

3.3 Report of the General Secretary (GEN 03) 7

3.4 Standing Committees of the Central Committee (GEN 04) 9

3.5 Proposed Public Issues (GEN PUB 04) 9

3.6 Progress Report on the implementation of the WCC Strategic Plan 2014 - 2017 10

3.7 Report of the Audit Committee (GEN 06) 11

3.8 Membership Matters 11

3.9 Nominations 14

3.10 Policy on Non-Active Member Church Status 15

3.11 Nominations 16

4. Finance 18

4.1 Financial Overview and Report 2015 (EC 01, EC 02) 18

4.2 Detailed Report of the Auditors (EC 03) 21

4.3 Financial Results to April 2016 and Forecast (EC 01) 22

4.4 Plan for Use of CHF 340,000 (EC 03), Capital Expenditure 2016 (EC 05) and Framework Budgets 2017 and 2018 (EC 01) 22

4.5 Report from the WCC Pension Fund Committee 23

4.6 Real Estate Development Project 24

5. Programme 25
5.1 Recommendations of the Executive committee Meeting, November 2015, on Programme Work: An Accountability Report (EC 07) 25
5.2 Summary of Programme Reports 2015 25
5.3 EAPPI 27
5.4 Update on the Ecumenical Diakonia Document 30
5.5 Towards the Mid-Term Evaluation and renewal of the WCC Strategic Plan 30
5.6 Report of the Solidarity Visit to the United States 31
6. Governance Matters 31
6.1 Matters Arising from the Executive Minutes 31
6.2 Policies on Representation 31
6.3 ACT Alliance Membership Strategy and Some Key Membership Issues 32
7. Dates and Venues for Future Governing Body Meetings 34
7.1 Executive Committee meeting in Bossey, Switzerland, June 2017: 34
7.2 Executive Committee meeting, November 2017 : 34
7.3 Central Committee, Executive Committee and Assembly Planning Committee meetings 2018: 34
8. Closed session 34
8.1 Staffing report 35
9. Closing Actions 38
Appendix: List of Participants 39

1. Prayers

Morning prayers were held in the meeting room. The scripture reading was Mark 4:30-32.

2. Opening Actions

2.1 WELCOME

The executive committee met in a general session.

2.2 ROLL CALL

Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, general secretary, welcomed the executive committee and called the roll of members present (see Appendix). He then announced the apologies.

2.3 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The proposed agenda was presented and approved.

2.4 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Dr Audeh B. Quawas (Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem) pointed out that both the executive committee minutes and the central committee minutes were received in June, while the meetings took place much earlier. He suggested that it would be helpful to have them for review no later than three months after the meeting took place. Prof. Dr Marina Kolovopoulou (Church of Greece) agreed that this was very important. The general secretary said that sending the minutes late was not intentional, but circumstances sometimes make it difficult.

It was agreed by consensus that the minutes of the executive committee should be received within three months after the executive committee meeting.
It was agreed by consensus that the minutes of the central committee should be received within six months after the meeting.

Matters Arising

Dr Quawas mentioned that the discussion of the paper on anti-Semitism (EC 07) at the executive committee meeting in November 2015, was postponed to the meeting in 2016, and that this should be added to the current agenda.

The general secretary explained that the matter had been carefully discussed in Cyprus, where it was agreed that it should be presented to the central committee for study. The matter is included in the document on Religion and Violence, which now is to be presented to the central committee. The document should be properly informed by previous discussions in the executive committee, which has already considered it twice.

Rev. Dr Hielke Wolters, associate general secretary for programme, added that it had been agreed not to treat the matter of anti-Semitism separately, but include it in a general address of the issue of violence. Thus, a draft background document on Religion and Violence has been brought back and included in the current document. The programme committee of the central committee will look at the current document to see if it is suitable for sharing with the member churches.

Dr Quawas thought it would be wise for the executive committee to discuss the document in order to avoid long debates in the central committee meeting.

Dr Agnes Abuom pointed out that the document already has been shared with the central committee.

Dr Quawas asked that his opinion be noted in the minutes.

H.E. Archbishop Vicken Aykazian (Armenian Apostolic Church [Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin]) pointed out to the committee that there has been recent mentioning of the anti-Israel attitude of the WCC. However, he reminded the committee of the words of Archbishop Desmond Tutu in Harare in 2007, and the words of the president of South Africa, who came to thank the WCC for its support during Apartheid, for without it he would have been imprisoned.

The minutes were approved with the noted remarks.

2.5 SHARING FROM THE MEMBERS

Bishop John F. White (African Methodist Episcopal Church) noted that his church was celebrating its bicentennial as a formal denomination, being founded in 1816 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA by persons of African descent in response to racial discrimination experienced in the context of the predominantly white Methodist Church at the time. In July, the celebration would conclude at the 50th Quadrennial Session of the AME Church General Conference in Philadelphia.

Bishop Dr Mary Ann Swenson (United Methodist Church), vice-moderator of the central committee, informed the group that during the ecumenical day of the United Methodist Church General Conference, the church celebrating the 200 years anniversary of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME) and acknowledged and repented for racism that brought about the division and that still remains in the US today. She also shared that at the AME General Conference, Bishop John F. White would become the president of the Council of Bishops for that church.

Dr Quawas shared that in preparation for the Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church meeting he experienced that there is a new duty to open discussion on issues connected to how we present ourselves to those who are anti-ecumenical. He shared that he was happy that the pan-Orthodox meeting, and looked forward to briefings from the meeting.

Rev Dr Sharon Watkins (Christian Church [Disciples of Christ] in the United States) gave thanks for the solidarity shown to the US churches on the issue of racism. She shared that the Pilgrimage on Justice and Peace had been discussed with and among the Canadian churches, and that it was great to have Bishop Mark MacDonald (Anglican Church of Canada), WCC president from North America present. She also expressed appreciation of the visit of Fr Prof. Dr Ioan Sauca, associate general secretary for programme.

Bishop Samuel Robert Azariah (Church of Pakistan) shared that for the first time his church had been able to establish direct links to the China Christian Council. It is also the first time in the history of the church that we have gone outside the boundaries of Pakistan – Western relationships and made contact with the East. The outcome has been very positive, and the Chinese church will be sending a big delegation to the Church of Pakistan early next year.

Rev. Dr Hyun Ju Bae (Presbyterian Church of Korea) expressed gratitude for the WCC's support to the international women's work in South Korea, which is actively working for peace and no more war.

Rev. Dr Henriette Hutabarat-Lebang (Gereja Toraja) said that there is growing concern with regards to religious freedom in Indonesia. The Communion of Churches in Indonesia (PGI) worked together to raise the issue of religious freedom. A particular concern is the situation of Christians living in certain Muslim majority areas. Another great concern is violence against children. There are on-going activities to engage gypsies in taking violence against children seriously. Another hot topic is homosexuality, and for the first time the PGI is dealing with the issue, with the intention of trying to accompany the churches when they address the issue.

Archbishop Vicken Aykazian shared that Pope Francis would visit Armenia in the coming days, an event which is of great significance. He also announced that the German Bundestag has accepted the reality and importance of the Armenian Genocide has been important, and he expressed gratitude for this.

Dr Abuom shared that in March 2016 churches in Burundi were visited by the AACC and WCC. While the solidarity visit took place, the Archbishop of Canterbury was also visiting. The Anglican Church of Kenya, has had a successful election of a fifth archbishop, the first Maasai archbishop, and the elections were peaceful and good. The Kenyan churches continue to accompany the churches in South Sudan. The moderators of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa and the Presbyterian Church in South Sudan and Sudan send greetings; they are now looking at how they can accompany each other in the continued process.

Later in the day, Dr Quawas reminded the committee of the recent suicide attack at a Syrian Orthodox church where the patriarch participated in worship. The patriarch survived, although there were many injured. This was very clearly a religiously related attack.

The general secretary affirmed the information and said that the attack also deserved attention in the central committee meeting.

3. Pending Matters/Documents for the Central Committee

3.1 REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (GEN 02)

Mr Georges Lemopoulos, deputy general secretary, expressed gratitude to colleagues for the assistance in drafting the report. He said that each meeting of the executive committee had contributed to the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace, either because it has been part of the programme of the meeting, or because of the nature of the situation at the venue. If there were additional decisions taken by this meeting, they would also be recorded.

The report, as a matter of accountability, presents to the central committee all the decisions taken by the executive committee since that last meeting of the central committee. In addition, it clarifies for the central committee the spirit in which the sub-committees of the executive committee worked. This question has been asked by the central committee in order to ensure that each sub-committee, and by extension the executive committee as a whole, did not go beyond its mandate and authority.

Dr Agnes Abuom (Anglican Church of Kenya), moderator of the central committee, presented the document.

Dr Quawas pointed out that the report contained issues which are to be raised before the central committee, are to be dealt with by the executive committee prior to the central committee meeting, and that these should be added to the agenda.

The executive committee accepted the document as the report of the executive committee.

3.2 MODERATOR'S ADDRESS (GEN 01)

Dr Abuom briefly introduced her address to the central committee. She would look into the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace and how we are discerning the landscapes together. We need to look for partnership for justice and peace, and at the challenges and possibilities we have with regards to climate justice questions, issues of violence, the fear of the other, technology, the logic of violence and marginalisation. On the basis of the WCC solidarity visit to the USA, she will suggest that we address the issue of racism as a major challenge.

Seeing WCC as an instrument for justice and peace, she would like to challenge the central committee, the commissions, the staff and the various organs to commit ourselves to make the pilgrimage a reality and a part of our daily lives. This has to do with the ethics of the space we occupy; she would ask that the pilgrimage move to the centre of our relationships, and ask every man and woman of good will to join us in the pilgrimage. We have seen the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace picking up. The fear of the other is not only something religious, but can be found across boundaries, and finds expressions as hate speech, violent language of the other, profiling of the other, etc. She will also try to reflect on technology and the way it is being used both positively and negatively. The electoral campaign in the USA is an example of the use of very negative language; Dr Abuom said she left US with a heavy heart after the WCC visit. We meet people in contexts where they embrace us, but this happens while they segregate people in their own country. We need to raise awareness also of Zionism, which receives support, to a large degree based on lack of knowledge in our communities. Coming from a country which has experienced persecution, the Kenyan government nevertheless sends the Somalis back, avoiding the dilemma by arguing that in doing so they are not sending them back to the centre for recruitment to extremism.

<u>The executive committee received the address and commended it to the central committee.</u>

3.3 REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY (GEN 03)

Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit said that it is extremely important that we carry with us the Christian hope and always have Christian hope as our entry point. We must make this hope identifiable: the resurrection of Christ at the heart of our belief is a powerful message.

After meeting with a group of churches in India, he discovered that the issue of organic communion is an issue that the uniting churches are pursuing. It is one of many models of unity that has been explored over the years, and it is model that we should welcome and support. But our role is not so much to say who shall unite with whom, since that it is a bilateral matter. Our calling is to support this as an expression of unity, and to see this as part of the pilgrimage, as signs of what we can do together towards reaching visible unity. In that sense, the task is to see how visible unity relates to an organic comm(unity). We can encourage these churches to form a communion, because the sincerity of the issue shows that this is also a spiritual matter. We are in a situation where we need to remind our members churches about

how they relate to each other in community. This is about promise, which relates to accountability, and accountability is mutual.

UNHCR invited politicians and church leaders from Europe to be part of a discourse on how can we share responsibility for refugees in Europe. Churches have a role to play, as they are the majority faith communities in many societies. How can we help facilitate that people find a place and a home in new countries? How can we assist those who have left their communities and churches? When we look at how many refugees Kenya is receiving or South Africa which is receiving 300,000 people, and still it is a challenge to look at how Europe is dealing with the question of refugees.

The general secretary then referred to a meeting with Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who still is interested in the WCC. He once worked in the theological education programme, and says it was a turning point for him in his journey. Without the ecumenical movement it would have been impossible to overcome Apartheid. The archbishop further said that we should not underestimate how important the ecumenical movement is and should be. When the German chancellor opened the borders to refugees, Tutu said he was proud of being a human being. He sends greetings to all of you.

Rev. Frank Chikane was present at the 40-year commemoration of the student massacre in Soweto. Participants at the commemoration were relatives of the victims, but also relatives of the perpetrators of the violence. Appreciation of the accompaniment of the WCC was expressed at the commemoration. As we work for peace and justice we need to remember that the accompaniment of the WCC is important in many places: Colombia, Burundi, Pakistan, DRC, Nigeria, to name only a few. When combining our presence with an event, the experience is powerful.

He remarked to the group that the previous day was the opening worship of the Pan-Orthodox Council in the cathedral of Heraklion, Crete, expressing unity among the Orthodox churches, but also the Orthodox churches' relations with other churches. His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew asked to bring greetings to all of you.

In addition to the visit to Burundi, it was important to support the National Council of Churches of Burundi, and to support those who really want to invest in the peace process in the country. An on-going conversation in the UN Security Council shows interest in the role of the churches and of the WCC. What, then, are initiatives on our side, and what can we do? Through our pilgrimage together we can show support, solidarity and we can accompany churches and people. As an example the general secretary of NCC of Burundi experienced the visit to South Africa as inspiring, since he could see which role the churches may play.

We see a strong connection between the issue of racism and the situation of the occupation in Palestine. African church leaders affirm that they see this connection more than ever before. This is an opportunity to lobby with the US government; however, it does provoke negative attention from Israel.

In summarizing the general secretary's report, Dr Abuom underlined three key issues: the concerns around the debate on ecumenism that will take place in the Orthodox Council; the second is strategies for accompanying churches in Palestine and Israel; and the third is how we deal with the reception of refugees in Europe. Churches are doing a good job, but a negative trend is signalled from many governments.

The executive committee received the report and commended it to the central committee.

3.4 STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE (GEN 04)

The membership of standing committees of the central committee remains the same, except for those who apologized, the substitutes, and the replacements for the central committee

The executive committee approved the membership of the standing committees of the central committee.

3.5 PROPOSED PUBLIC ISSUES (GEN PUB 04)

Mr Peter Prove summarised the actions planned for the public issues committee. It focuses on long-term engagement in the WCC, as well as on-going and emerging issues. Four issues have been prioritised for statements:

1. Religion and violence
2. Statement on Israel and Palestine
3. Statement on the refugees and migrant crisis
4. Freedom of action for civil society

Bishop Samuel Robert Azariah asked what the difference is between WCC and other civil society organisations on the subject of religion and violence. The statement on religion and violence looks very theoretical and very general. The statement on Israel and Palestine is more specific, and it would be good to be specific also in all our statements. On the issue of migrants and refugees, it is worth mentioning that a lot of immigrants and migrants in Asia and Africa are forgotten in the statement.

Prof. Dr Marina Kovolopoulou said that the executive committee had already been giving specific instructions on the issue of religion and violence, which should have been used in the statement. She also pointed out that we need to be careful about the way we refer to legislation of the European institutions and how they relate to local national legislation. How are some UN decisions treated when they are not in accordance with national law? It is difficult to use the statement, if this is not included.

Mr Thomas Hyeono Kang (Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession in Brazil) raised a question about how human trafficking has been dealt with by the central committee. Maybe an

explanation could be included in advance, because the question will surely be raised by the central committee.

The general secretary said that this is the type of discussion is needed at the central committee, including the specific issues that are called for in the statement. This central committee meeting can revise the statements before their approval.

Ms Teny Pirri-Simonian (Armenian Apostolic Church [Holy See of Cilicia]) said she found the number of agenda items included in the pilgrimage overwhelming, in addition to the public statements. Knowing that the resources of WCC are shrinking she asked how the WCC actually is going to contribute concretely to these issues. She also reminded of the member churches, who often do not have the means to work on all these matters by themselves.

Mr Prove responded to the comments. These texts are initial drafts. The public issues committee will receive comments from the executive committee for further work on these texts. Some of the issues raised are incumbent in the longer texts, but not part of the summaries. On refugees, it is certainly the intention to show that this is not only a European challenge, a goal is also to illuminate the global dimension of the crisis; certainly, that can be made stronger. Religion and violence actually permeates all other statements; it is a broader theme and we have to look at WCC's role here.

<u>The executive committee received the drafts of the statements and commended the four statements to the central committee.</u>

3.6 PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WCC STRATEGIC PLAN 2014 - 2017

Dr Hielke Wolters presented the Doc. No. GEN PRO 03 Progress Report on the implementation of the WCC Strategic Plan 2014-2017. For each strategic objective the work accomplished in reference to the indicators set forth in the WCC Strategic Plan, was presented. Concrete examples were added, explaining how a project or activity was carried forward, what nature it has, and so forth. Potential improvements were also indicated, as they can helps to look forward towards the next strategic plan.

Bishop Dr Mary Ann Swenson asked what the main challenges and learnings have been, working with the Strategic Plan.

Rev. Dr Wolters responded that the main conclusions, challenges and learnings are listed at the end of the report. A challenge is that the more the Council tries to respond to its constituency, with all the different priorities, the more the Council is challenged by the question of what WCC's priorities are. We talk about challenges, but we also talk about conclusions. It is the first time that we have a strategic plan that brings together all the different aspects of the Council. In that sense, we are also still learning together how to improve this part of our work.

Bishop Dr Swenson gave thanks for the report and said that it is also going to be helpful to the group we are electing to be part of the mid-term evaluation team.

The progress report on the implementation of the WCC Strategic Plan 2014-2017 was received.

3.7 REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE (GEN 06)

Apologies were given on behalf of the moderator of the audit committee, who could not be present. As vice-moderator, Dr Audeh B. Quawas, presented the report (EC 15). He asked that a letter of thanks be sent by the general secretary on behalf of the central committee to the audit committee, in appreciation of the work they have done.
The executive committee agreed that the proposed letter be sent.

Dr Quawas suggested that members of the audit committee be appointed annually. It was clarified that one question is the central committee member of the audit committee; another is about the external member of the audit committee, which is a matter of appointment.

It was agreed that the issue should be referred to the nominations committee of the central committee.

3.8 MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Archpriest Dr Daniel Buda introduced Doc. No. GEN 05 Membership Matters and the recommendations included in it:

I. Regarding the final decisions on applications for membership in the WCC, it is recommended that the following three applications be submitted to the central committee for action (as full member churches):

a) Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa;
b) Church of Central Africa Presbyterian Blantyre Synod; and
c) Council of Baptist Churches in Northeast India

II. Regarding applications for membership in the WCC, the following recommendations be submitted to the central committee for action:

a) That the Africa Brotherhood Church, be admitted, and that an interim period be established so that a final decision can be made at the central committee meeting in 2018.
b) That the Community of Baptist Churches in Central Africa, be admitted, and that an interim period be established so that a final decision can be made at the central committee meeting in 2018.

The executive committee accepted the proposal.

III. Archpriest Dr Daniel Buda continued to introduce an application from specialized ministries and its recommendation, to go to the central committee for action:

To welcome the application of the Canadian Lutheran World Relief as a specialised ministry in a working relation with the WCC, and to refer the application to the central committee for a final decision.

The executive committee accepted the proposal.

Archpriest Dr Daniel Buda proceeded to introduce a fourth issue:

IV. The place of the Church of Jesus Christ on Earth by his Special Envoy Simon Kimbangu (Kimbanguist Church) in the ecumenical family.

Background information on the situation of the church was provided. The issue has been on the agenda for a very long time, and several questions were raised on how to deal with this special case. The general secretary explained that he did not find it appropriate to propose a process of suspending the church's membership before having had a proper meeting with the church. A lot of time has been invested in trying to set up a preliminary meeting with the church. Since all initiatives taken by the WCC and its ecumenical partners have failed, and there have been no new initiatives since the last attempt failed in November 2015, the general secretary expressed that he does not how to continue the process of dialogue and consultation. He therefore feels the need to ask for advice on any further actions, either to 1) do nothing; or 2) start a process of suspension.

Archbishop Dr Vicken Aykazian said that the executive committee discusses the membership of this one church every time it meets, and therefore proposed the church's membership be suspended. Mr Lemopoulos explained that until the assembly in Busan there was no opportunity to suspend any member church. It was therefore seen as better to send the question to the central committee, because among the central committee members there are people who will know the church and the situation on the ground.

Dr Abuom added that there have been discussions to find out what is really going on in this matter before it is now proposed as an issue to be sent to the central committee.

Dr Quawas said that the executive committee now has a possibility to make a decision without consulting the central committee. He expressed concern that this could give other member churches a chance to do the same, and therefore believed that the executive committee needed to take a decision here.

Rev. Dr Watkins said she would like the approach of consulting with regional bodies. She appreciates that kind of process in order to interpret and understand the rules and regulations. However, this case may have some particularity to it. It seems like finding the right balance between the rules and to take care of the relationship with the region is a wise approach.

Rev. Dr Tveit explained that this church is unclear about its doctrine and faith in the Triune God. It is not bluntly denying the doctrine of the Trinity, but has asked for more time to clarify its belief. If we suspend their membership, it must not be exclusion, but suspension on the basis of inviting them to clarify their position on their membership. We cannot make a decision on exclusion before there has been a period of suspension. After consultation with sister organisations and churches in Africa, it is wise to bring the question of suspension to the table.

Bishop Azariah commended the approach of the general secretary in how to deal with this church.

It was clarified that the church is a member of both the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) and the Organization of African Instituted Churches (OAIC), which have the same difficulty as the WCC as to how to deal with this church.

Archpriest Dr Daniel Buda explained that the church has changed in the last ten to fifteen years.

Bishop Dr Opoko asked the group what Jesus Christ would do. He said that in this special situation, and in spite of the fact that there are rules to suspend and reasons to suspend, the church is still a member church. He therefore said he believes in consulting the regional members of the central committee before reaching a final decision on the matter.

Prof. Dr Kovolopoulou said that this matter has been on our agenda for over 20 years. Regardless of the attitude of the church, there is a certain problem of a character and nature, which is not about our rules. There is a very serious doctrinal question. While it is important to be sensitive, Jesus' commitment and strong grounds are reflected in the WCC membership rules. Consideration must also be given to other member churches. Why has the course of this church changed so much since the beginning? With all the efforts WCC has made over the years the question is raised about the delay in meeting formally with WCC.

Dr Quawas said that suspension is a way of pressure to continue the dialogue. Suspension is not a matter of exclusion according to the WCC rules, it only says: "When a church is suspended, the general secretary shall present a progress report." For the sake of WCC's credibility the rules need to be implemented properly.

Bishop Dr Opoko expressed his gratitude for the clarification of the rules, understanding that such an act of suspension is meant to put a kind of pressure on the church. He had understood that we were excluding the church.

The general secretary said that the proposal for consulting with member churches from Africa at the central committee meeting would be helpful in order to clarify these kinds of misunderstandings. He said he hears that the executive committee is supporting a possible next step of suspension, but thinks it would be wise to consult member churches from Africa before the decision is made. It has to be discussed in the context in which the church came to be, and with churches who understand the background of this church.

H.E. Dr Metropolitan Gennadios said that the executive committee could suggest that central committee members from Africa discuss this as a priority matter at their regional meeting. He discerned an agreement for suspension, but he underlined that such an action must be taken carefully. Is this the only church that has problems with doctrinal issues? How many churches haven't changed their doctrines? This may risk opening a kind of Pandora's box. The first step is to consult about suspension, but we must also consider the damage it may cause.

Bishop Opoko pointed out that the Kimbanguist church is a member church, and this causes hesitation in making such a decision that may be regarded as a threat. But we should remember that we are not asking them to go. We must be bold enough to say that a church that does not keep the rules and go along with it, cannot be a member. The proposed consultation is a necessary step.

The general secretary clarified that to make a decision of suspension in the central committee needs a process of preparation in order for the central committee to be able to make an informed decision, and can therefore only be prepared before the next central committee meeting.

Metropolitan Gennadios suggested that in order to help the policy reference committee, the executive committee should give them some direction for discussion.

Ms Pirri-Simonian pointed out that we need to see a parallel way of accompanying member churches. Suspension may not only lead to exclusion, but it may rather mean that a church is accompanied on their way back.

Dr Quawas said that the policy reference committee has nothing to do with the matter. We are postponing the decision for another two years, even if the suggestion is to put pressure on the church. He suggested that the general secretary speaks with the African churches about the matter in this central committee meeting, and then makes a proposal that can be put for the current central committee meeting.

It was decided that the issue be referred to the central committee for further discussion in the policy reference committee and further consultation in the Africa regional meeting.

3.9 NOMINATIONS

Central Committee

Mr Georges Lemopoulos introduced the proposals for the replacements of the central committee, permanent committee on consensus and collaboration, Echoes commission on youth in the ecumenical movement, the commission on faith and order and the commission of the churches on international affairs (CCIA), all to be acted upon by the central committee (Doc. No. GEN NOM 02) .

The executive committee approved the list of nominations, to be sent to the central committee for decision.

3.10 POLICY ON NON-ACTIVE MEMBER CHURCH STATUS

Mr Doug Chial introduced the Doc. No. GEN PRC 04 Policy on Non-Active Member Church Status.

Experience indicates, and this report suggests, that it may be better to monitor financial stewardship as it is reflected in the "Policy for reimbursement of travel costs for WCC governing, consultative and advisory bodies", while maintaining a regular review of churches that have not made a membership contribution in many years. Mr Chial explained that monitoring contribution is important, but declaring non-contributing member churches as inactive churches is problematic.

Therefore, it is recommended that the executive committee withdraw the policy on "non-active member churches", affirm the "Policy for reimbursements of Travel Costs for WCC Governing, Consultative and Advisory Bodies", and require the executive and central committees to continue monitoring the membership contributions with concern for churches that have not made a contribution in three consecutive years or more.

Bishop Azariah said that we should implement the decisions we have made. A concern is when some representatives from churches not contributing are also in the central committee. How do we deal with those churches who never pay anything for eight years and then when the assembly comes, they pay for a year and two and obtain subsidies?

Mr Chial explained that churches represented in the central committee have been active in communicating with the WCC, though they did not all pay their membership contribution. Commitment and contacts have been maintained. Financial contribution is only one of the duties of the member churches.

Dr Quawas noted that for this to be enforced the rules must be amended. There are no rules about non-active members. Secondly, the central committee of 2003 did not approve the rules as they are applied here, because non-active members were not allowed to come to the assembly, which in practice means that they are excluded. Are there legal implications of this issue? Dr Quawas said that he could not see that due to financial reasons some churches can come to the assembly to express their opinion, but without being able to be elected. He expressed his agreement that Appendix 1 be amended.

Bishop Dr Opoko gave an example of a church which has had difficulties attending assemblies for the mentioned reasons. Even to get a visa and to travel has been very difficult. If churches from such a country have problems with making financial contributions, they will be unable to attend anything. On the other hand, if as church has not communicated for three years, or paid for three years, the rules would seem fair. He asked what the role of the executive committee

and central committee members is in such cases. Bishop Opoko took the list back to Nigeria and met with the leaders of the churches to talk about the contributions.

Dr Quawas said that if we were to delete everything, non-active members would have the possibility of being elected into the governing bodies. His point is that this would be all right for the assembly, but it would not be all right for them to be elected into governing bodies.

The general secretary clarified that in order to get to the assembly you actually have to have paid your fee, and therefore you already fulfil all requirements for election. However, if you do not pay later on, there is a need for another policy.
Mr Lemopoulos said that the case described occurs every eight years. The policy suggested is a challenge every day, because there are always meetings coming up. The goal of this discussion is to simplify the whole regulation and make it easier for colleagues to be accountable and explain why they do not follow the policies.

It was further clarified that whenever a request for contribution is sent from the conference office, no church contributing, but paying less than CHF 1,000 has ever been denied access.

The executive committee recommended the proposed action to the central committee.

3.11 NOMINATIONS

Mr Lemopoulos introduced the Doc. No GEN NOM 02 on Nominations and began by explaining what had been done in preparation of the central committee meeting. Ultimately, the final proposals will have to be made by the governance and nominations committee and the central committee will have to act upon them.

As to the preparatory process, the executive committee had asked the general secretary to send a letter to all member churches inviting nominations. On the basis of input received from member churches, consultation in regional and confessional groups, as well as discussions between the general secretary and member churches and members of governing bodies, a proposed list of candidates for election is submitted to the central committee. This list will be presented to the central committee in a plenary session so that, in a first stage, matters for clarification be discussed. Then, the proposal will be referred to the governance and nominations committee. Central committee members will be invited and be very welcome to suggest alternative proposals to the governance and nominations committee.

Nominations will also be discussed in the regional meetings. Members from the same region will have the opportunity to discuss the nominations for the mid-term elections and formulate alternative proposals. Members of the governance and nominations committee will be participating as listeners in all regional groups and they will record any regional proposals and bring them to their committee for further discussion.

There will also be a hearing session midway through the central committee meeting, before submitting the report of the governance and nominations committee for final decision, so that members are aware of the direction taken and can express their views. Since the discussion and the decision making process could be long, the time table of the central committee has included sufficient plenary sessions to deal with this matter properly.

Mr Lemopoulos underlined again the fact that the proposal presented by the general secretary simply intends to facilitate the process. Following the letter to members churches, proposals were received and, as much as possible, were incorporated in the proposed list. Efforts have been made to at least ensure the balances that were reached in Busan. Hopefully, there is a chance to improve the balances on gender. Regional balances have not changed. Important to mention is that this is not the only list that comes for approval. We will also have the nominations for the assembly planning committee and the assembly planning worship committee. There is also the mid-term evaluation team. A balance has been sought among the candidates in the different groups in order to ensure broad representation.

Rules and regulations can be debated but it is important to keep in mind that the rules stipulate that there will be rotation, ensured by a maximum of two mandates for the central committee. He added some examples to illustrate when and where balances in every category have not been met.

Mr Lemopoulos went on to present a few changes in the committees. H.G. Bishop Irinej of Australia and New Zealand is the moderator of the governance and nominations committee. He is not able to be present at this meeting. To replace him, Archbishop Emeritus Dr Anders Wejryd is invited to moderate, as he is familiar with the work of the governance and nominations committee. Rev. Dr Paul Gardner will be asked to participate in the finance committee when H.E. Archbishop Dr Vicken Aykazian will have to leave for church reasons.

Dr Abba Haile Mariam Melese Ayenew (Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church) explained that he had tried to inform the Holy Synod about the new system of rotation, and that the system is appreciated, but from the Ethiopian Orthodox side, the church has never previously been a member of the executive committee. Therefore, the Holy Synod decided to ask that the Ethiopian Orthodox Church be represented in the central committee for the whole of the period. A letter has been sent in this regard.

Dr Quawas said that if any changes come from the floor in the last plenary, it must come as a specific proposal who will replace a specific person. Thirteen 13 persons should be changed. He expressed his hope that the spirit of the rule of changes will not be compromised, because it provides a way to build capacities in the ecumenical movement. He hoped that the number of seats subject to rotation would not be only ten as in the proposed list now, but rather thirteen. Many other issues will play a role, including regional dynamics and balances. He added that though this is the first time that the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate is part of the executive committee, he accepted to step down and his church will not put forward any other proposal in order to respect the new rule on rotation.

A question was raised regarding the election of the executive committee and whether it will take place in an open or closed session. At the assembly in Busan, the elections of the central committee started as an open session and ended up as a closed session.

The general secretary explained that in Busan there was critique that there was a closed session of elections where some could be present as elected members of the central committee, while others could not because they were present in Busan as delegates but were not elected to the central committee. This is not the case here. All eligible persons will be able to be present at a closed session.

Metropolitan Dr Gennadios said that a problem might occur if the session is open, since there may be discussion on very personal issues of the nominees. This may prove difficult for the dynamics of both the central committee and the elections.

Dr Quawas said that it would be best to be transparent. In Busan, there were assembly delegates but not central committee members. I think it would be better to have an open session. We could trust the judgement of the moderator of the session to close the session if necessary.

Metropolitan Gennadios said that having an open session is not necessarily synonym of transparency.

Rev. Dr Paul Gardner said that he did not know of any governance body that does not have closed sessions, since this has to do with governance procedures, not transparency.

Bishop Dr Opoko suggested sending the issue to the governance and nominations committee.

The executive committee agreed that the final session on elections be a closed session.

4. Finance

Ms Elaine Dykes, director of finance, presented an overview of the reports. She stated that there had been no meeting of the finance sub-committee since the last executive committee meeting, so some matters will have to be raised now. In addition, some reports were not ready by the time of the last meeting, and will therefore be dealt with at this meeting.

4.1 Financial Overview and Report 2015 (EC 01, EC 02)

Ms Dykes presented the financial report 2015. There was a good outcome for 2015, providing a solid result for the council. However, there is a decrease in income in several areas. This resulted in a revised budget for 2015. A major highlight was the result for Bossey and the

scholarship fund was increased. The surplus also resulted in the execution of transfers that had previously been approved by the executive committee to other accounts and funds. With this background, the general secretary asked that 340,000 CHF be used according to a plan developed in 2016 for use either in priority areas of work, or for urgent response to issues. The area with the largest differentiation was within programme expenditure, since some activities had been changed or postponed. In the end it turns out that the entire budget was underspent. Within the report there is a graph highlighting the net infrastructure reduction that has taken place, a reduction that can be felt and seen. This reduces costs, keeping the same income level. There is also a high level of liquidity to cover designated programme funding as well as building project and funds.

Mr Mark Johnson, finance manager, presented an overview of the planned use of the funds. Of the total funds there remains 70,000 CHF which is not yet allocated.

Dr Quawas enquired about the process for the decision concerning the use of the 340,000 CHF, and asked whether this amount should rather go to the general reserves. He wished to point out that the normal process of approving issues like this one should be that a proposal comes from the general secretary to the executive committee, who sends it to the finance sub-committee. The sub-committee works on the proposal, which then is sent to the executive committee for approval. This is correct procedure when there are meetings, but it does not work when there are no meetings. He suggested that the general secretary should contact the finance sub-committee moderator to decide whether the process is acceptable or not. A motion, which comes from the general secretary, comes as a surprise.

The question was raised also because approximately 16 persons approved the process, however three of them answered after the deadline. This means there was no proper quorum on the issue. Unfortunately, the sub-committee moderator did not answer either, but simply abstained. The three persons who voted after the deadline should not really be added to the quorum. The management has done a great job in getting to the result of the surplus, but there is a need to tidy up in the procedure of reaching decisions. What needs clarification, as a matter of principle, is who has the right to send the motion.

Dr Quawas then raised a question regarding the transfer of funds from reserves to a certain programme fund, and expressed his unwillingness to approve of any amount to be spent in 2016. This is not due to any suspicion of mismanagement, but to worry about financial management principles. Therefore, he would like to suggest that the executive committee deal with two issues:

- Rules and process of the management
- Plan for allocation of funds for 2017

Ms Dykes clarified that management of funds between 2016 and 2017 was never a question of approval; it has only been a matter of reporting. This will be visible when the results of the first quarter of 2016 is presented. It is therefore not a question of approval of the 340,000 CHF as such. Projects and the overall direction of the activities have already been approved as part of the plans and the budget by the same executive committee. On the other hand, it was

recommended to bring forward a progress report at the meeting, which is the case. However, a request to present all allocations of funding for approval by the executive committee has not been made. It is unusual for us to have an opportunity to develop a plan for the savings of unrestricted funds.

Rev. Dr Tveit pointed out that one issue is how we deal with surpluses. Another issue is how we perform, and if there is a specific request connected to that performance. A third issue is a matter of principle on who makes proposals when there is no committee meeting to deal with it. He agreed with Dr Quawas that there should normally be a motion and a secondment of the motion. The general secretary can move a motion, but it should be seconded before taken to vote. It would block the day-to-day work if the general secretary could not make a move, and there is a need to find a functional way of manoeuvring from one year to another, when there is a surplus.

Dr Kolovopolou suggested that the areas where the general secretary can make a motion need to be clarified. The general secretary replied that finances and elections are the only areas of decision-making that require voting; otherwise the work is done by consensus.

Dr Quawas agreed that this is true when it comes to meetings, but not when it comes to electronic voting.

Mr Lemopoulos explained that the electronic/postal vote is new and clarification of the rule might be helpful. This could be an agenda topic for the next executive committee meeting. Dr Quawas pointed out that his intention was not to amend the proposed expenditure, but that he did not agree that the priorities for expenditure should only be for information. He could not understand that the information is only for revision and not for approval. If it is so, he would rather ask why the executive committee do not revise the budget. At the meeting in Cyprus, it was decided that the reserves cannot be under a certain figure, but no decision was made regarding a situation where there is a surplus. Therefore, the decision must be interpreted as "do not take anything from the reserves". Dr Quawas therefore moved that the executive committee should approve a revised budget for 2016.

Ms Dykes explained that the surplus was due to several reasons, including fewer staff resources for administrative work. If we are to move for another process, it requires proper preparation. If we take a proposal to put funds back into general reserves, this will create a lot of extra work. If we wished to have a new budget, the decision to transfer funds back will in practice be held until the end of 2016. It can be approved in November with the budget for 2017. She recommended that it be done in a practical way, and not to revise the budget.

Rev. Dr Tveit said that we need a conversation to understand the proportions of fiscal decisions and what are matters of principle and what are pragmatic issues. The question is whether we need to revise any decisions in order to avoid long procedures when there is a surplus. Otherwise, the general secretary expressed that he had the sense that there is a general trust in the planning and budgeting.

Dr Quawas explained that the decision taken was only that results should not go below 6 million CHF, but that there is no mention of exceeding the reserve.

Ms Dykes explained that unrestricted surpluses normally go to general reserves. The question is whether a decision on another purpose can be dealt with by the general secretary or not. To change a rule on how this is to be dealt with was in her opinion not necessary, but the question is understood. A third element is that it is a fairly rare decision to be taken, since we normally do not experience having to deal with surpluses.

Dr Quawas said that the executive committee had proposed adjustments to the notes. The activity to rename the funds should be presented at this meeting. He had understood this to be a matter for approval, not only for receiving information. In his opinion, the other meeting of the committee was clear that the question of how to spend the 340,000 CHF needed approval. This was the reason for his motion to postpone the decision on approval of these funds.

Rev. Dr Tveit added that it should not be necessary to decide on how to use these funds in the middle of a year, since changes to the budget would be overdue.

Dr Abuom pointed out that Doc EC 04 "Plan for use of CHF 340,000, and Progress Report" proposed a plan, and that a motion was still pending.

Ms Pirri-Simonian asked whether this would set a precedent for the future. In response, the general secretary explained that nothing would be changed with regards to the handling of general reserves during the course of the year.

In order to save time, Dr Quawas withdrew his motion and would register his objection during the discussion of the 2017 budget.

The executive committee accepted the plan for the use of the 340.000 CHF surplus.

Mr Lemopoulos explained that it was the first time after changing the rules that we are implementing electronic vote, which means that we probably need a clarification to be included in the supplement to the rules. The rules are clear, but the spirit in which they are practiced might be unclear.

It was agreed that whoever makes a motion would need somebody to second the motion. A memo about the supplement to the rules should be provided at the next meeting.

4.2 DETAILED REPORT OF THE AUDITORS (EC 03)

There was no discussion on the detailed report of the auditors.

4.3 Financial Results to April 2016 and Forecast (EC 01)

Ms Dykes presented the results until April 2016 (p. 11). Internal sales at Bossey have been lower compared to last year, which is still normal. It is hoped that this will improve for the second half of the year.

Ms Dykes explained the reason for increase (page 12) in the approved budget, which is connected to the total costs. Reports on capital expenditure is only reported to the executive committee. CHF 477 000 was approved, but spending was well under than the budget. Partly this is due to some projects delayed. Therefore, there is a high level of general reserve at the end of 2015.

Doc. No. EC 05 on capital expenditure 2016 and general reserves show relatively small amounts. Therefore, these budgets are not revised. A revision of the capital expenditure for 2016 will be brought for approval. The increase proposed include repairs of the roof and other urgently needed repairs at Bossey, as well as other projects on the premises. Having underspent there, it would now be correct to allow an average to appear this year. The document shows that even if the loan for the refunding of the Pension fund were reimbursed, even if we had to pay back up to 2 million CHF for 2017-2018, the target of the general reserve budget would still be reached.

4.4 Plan for Use of CHF 340,000 (EC 03), Capital Expenditure 2016 (EC 05) and Framework Budgets 2017 and 2018 (EC 01)

Mr Johnson presented budget forecasts and frameworks based on a review of an estimate of the income from partners. Total income shows a fairly stable level. The World Conference on Mission and Evangelism in 2018 will affect the 2018 budget, therefore a reserve is put down. CHF 600,000 is budgeted for the central committee meeting. The framework budget will become a work-through budget by mid-July. A detailed budget will also become available.

The financial scenario 2018-2021 (page 16) is presented to give an opportunity for the central committee to give its opinion on what might need to be taken into account for the four-year period up to the next assembly. There are three possible scenarios, 1) a decreasing scenario, 2) a stable scenario, 3) an increasing scenario. The first two are more realistic. It will be important for the central committee to identify issues that need to be taken into account, such as new ways of working to reduce expenditure, a strategic approach for ecumenical initiatives and new opportunities for fundraising.

A financial scenario for the 11th assembly should also be considered. A similar profile as for the 10th assembly is foreseen. The fundamental question, however, is whether the same in-kind contribution as for the Busan assembly would be available. This needs to be taken into account in assembly planning and is an open question with request for views and opinions.

Dr Quawas asked about the relationship between the Green Village project and the capital expenditure. Should investment in the building be made if it is to be demolished? In response, Ms Dykes explained that the capital expenditure for the ecumenical centre has been kept at very low level, still including a minimum of maintenance of offices to keep them rented. These costs belong to capital expenditure. There have been costs related to broken windows, security issues, etc., and necessary improvements through reviews by the finance and executive committees. The planned sound system for the chapel and main hall is estimated to cost CHF 100,000. The Green Village project will not affect the main building, which remains, so the sound system will not affect that project.

Dr Watkins asked about areas that would involve input from various committees, and how those discussions are going to take place in the central committee. Mr Johnson agreed that on the need to synchronise financial and programme planning. The finance policy committee will focus on the financial possibilities, and then this would be shared with the programme committee.

Dr Abuom asked about the three scenarios presented for the future. What would be the very minimum financial requirement for a bare minimum capacity? That question has been floating around for some time.

Ms Dykes said that this question can be answered in many ways, depending on what type of priorities and special projects one wishes to undertake. What is the core to keep? We classify between fixed cost areas, such as the ecumenical institute, and other areas that are variable. Then, what constitutes the fixed areas? This is a necessary definition in order to determine what it costs to sustain WCC, because it involves questions such as what does the general secretariat cost, the ecumenical institute, etc.

Rev. Dr Tveit explained that whatever level of finances, the capacity in terms of staffing, also affects our ability to plan. The more we can present, the greater are the possibilities of generating funding. He stated that the pillars of WCC's financial capacity include 1) membership fees that have stabilised, 2) other sources of income from partners, and 3) project related funds, financed by specialised ministries. We see that there are other sources of income, but some of them are related to specialised ministries' work, so how we work together with specialised ministries affects the question.

Working together can sometimes release funds.

4.5 REPORT FROM THE WCC PENSION FUND COMMITTEE

Ms Dykes introduced the report from the WCC pension fund committee. Unlike the previous WCC retirement fund board, the committee is not a responsible legal entity. However, it is responsible for sharing information with staff, monitoring relationships with Profond and its investment policy. The mandate is provided in EC 06 (Report of the Audit Committee). From

the work of the pension fund committee the highlights include the monitoring of Profond shows a stronger coverage of obligations; the fund is in good standing; however, it has a high percentage of investment in shares and is maintaining some policies, which are at the limit for WCC.

There is a high rate of conversion for a pension fund, which is good if you are member of the fund and close to retirement. However, there are questions related to the long-term sustainability of the fund. In the long-term, is it the right fund to use?

There were good, strong negotiations in renewing the contract until the end of December 2018. The council would expect to review the contract in 2018. We can highlight that they hold control of a reserve, which was provided to allow for the transfer of the fund, including the fact that the pension fund was undercovered. The reserve would allow for a situation where the pension fund would be underperforming, not allowing the payment of pensions.

There is a concern regarding the ethical investment with their dynamic investment profile. We will need to follow up on this asking for clarifications.

She informed the group that the WCC retirement fund was formally closed in Geneva, liquidated and completed.

4.6 REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Ms Dykes explained that the financial profile of the Green Village project would be considered by the finance sub-committee, in order to refine WCC's strategy. An important move is expected at the end of the year, when the plan will finally be approved by the authorities. It is a difficult and slow process with building projects in Geneva, slowed down by new regulations. Examples of the process were given, including steps which had not been foreseen. The latest change in regulations concerns traffic and car park requirements. Plans will have to be redocumented and the traffic study needs to be redone. Steps have to be taken in order to move forward and achieve the area development plan by the end of the year.

A reserve of over 2 million CHF is kept to cover the interest of the pension fund loan of CHF 24 million.
H.E. Archbishop Vicken Aykazian moved to the suggested decisions for the finance and audit reports and of the documents EC 04 and EC 05.

The executive committee

Adopted the financial report;
Appointed Price Waterhouse Cooper as auditor for 2016;
Approved the expenditure plan concerning the Fund for priority areas. Dr Quawas' objection on this matter is recorded.
Approved the revised limit for capital expenditure 2016, with one objection.

5. Programme

5.1 Recommendations of the Executive committee Meeting, November 2015, on Programme Work: An Accountability Report (EC 07)

Rev. Dr Wolters presented the report for information.

5.2 Summary of Programme Reports 2015

Rev. Dr Wolters went on to present the programme reports in a summarised format, by highlighting some issues:

- The gender advisory group has had its second meeting and is actively working on the question on how the council should address the community of women and men (page 7).
- The interreligious dialogue project has started in Nigeria as an interreligious centre for peace, together with churches and Muslim communities in Nigeria (page 10). There have also been activities at Bossey involving Jewish, Christian and Muslim young people, working in community to look at how they can achieve peace.
- The Faith and Order Commission has had a meeting related to the pilgrimage of justice and peace, one related outcome being the document "Moral Discernment in the Churches" (page 12).
- The Commission on World Mission and Evangelism (CWME) has had its meeting and proposes a World Mission Conference in 2018. Another important part of the work is a strengthening of the evangelism work (page 14) .
- In addition, work on Indigenous Peoples has been strengthened and a large international meeting was taking place in Trondheim at that moment.

Prof. Dr Isabel Phiri, associate general secretary for programme, continued the presentation on public witness and diakonia, peace building, conflict transformation and reconciliation.

- The Commission on Churches on International Affairs (CCIA) has done special work on Ukraine. While it was not given priority during the assembly, a lot of work has been done on Ukraine since then, linking it with the advocacy work in Geneva, and with the project work in the different areas of public witness and Diakonia. The Ecumenical UN Office (New York) has also given solid contributions. Work took place on Korea, Syria, Iraq, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Israel-Palestine and Jerusalem, the rights of children, humanitarian settlements and arms control. We have used the New York office to link up with the UN work in these countries, in addition to visits accompanying WCC member churches in these areas.
- On the ecumenical initiatives EAPPI, UNICEF has been particularly happy with the programme for accompanying children to school (p. 26).
- On economic and ecological justice, the collaboration with the World Communion of Reformed Churches has been important. The ecumenical school for an economy of life, enhancing agriculture, tax justice etc. was also done together with partners on climate

justice. The Ecumenical Water Network has also been a key in this work. The "seven weeks of prayer for water" has been an important way of sensitising communities.
- Work in Egypt aims at advancing peace and social justice through promoting interreligious dialogue, but at the same time promoting entrepreneurship.
- The work of ACT Alliance has been strengthened. Of particular importance is the work of health and healing; the agreement between WCC and WHO was reviewed in 2015 with WCC continuing to prove its efficiency as a partner in this collaboration.
- EHAIA and WCC-EAA have shown how the two are working together in order to present a united ecumenical response to HIV/AIDS.

Because Fr Ioan Sauca was involved in the ecumenical formation session of the stewards' programme, Rev. Dr Wolters presented the work on ecumenical formation and theological education. Among the programmes, he highlighted master courses in ecumenical studies, and area of continuing formation, where the programmatic work collaborates closely with the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey.

Summarising the programme reports, Rev. Dr Wolters said that WCC has become stronger in engaging member churches in joint initiatives and work.

Bishop Azariah said he was encouraged by the collaboration with member churches. Rev. Dr Wolters said he was happy that WCC has been able to reach churches on the margins. WCC therefore changed the way staff members develop contacts with churches, to keep in regular touch with all members churches.

Bishop Petra Bosse-Huber (Evangelical Church in Germany) asked for a list of abbreviations, which will help the readers to understand the papers, and to be more precise in their perception of all the work done. Dr Abuom asked that UN abbreviations be included in such a list.

It was clarified that there will be a separate update on EAPPI.

Dr Watkins expressed her amazement at the amount of work being done by staff while resources continue to diminish. Included in that is the breadth of programming and the involvement of the churches. She expressed great appreciation. Bishop Dr Chibuzo Raphael Opoko (Methodist Church Nigeria) also commended the report.

The general secretary gave thanks for the appreciation, because one learns not only from critique, but also from what works. He expressed pride in staff colleagues, and confirmed that the report gives a real picture of what is going on. There are many connections between the different projects, which strengthen the community and its link to the pilgrimage of justice and peace. It is not only relating to the strategies, but also to the directions given by the executive committee.

Dr Hutabarat-Lebang mentioned that at one point there was a discussion on mapping the participation of member churches, and their level of participation and contribution. She particularly wished for the mapping of participation, because it shows the engagement of people

who are members of the churches. Programmes take place and sometimes the opportunity to bring in people in the member churches is not seized.

Rev. Dr Wolters said that the report exists, but there has been hesitation as to whether it should be distributed. How will the technical data be understood, and what kind of questions will be raised? What does church mean, and what does participation mean? Dr Phiri reminded the executive committee that figures of participation might already be found in reports.

Rev. Dr Wolters added that efforts are being made to get to know the leadership of our member churches, they will be particular efforts for that.

Dr Quawas observed that it would be important to include representation from several denominations in multi-faith work.

Bishop Azariah underlined the importance of this, since churches seem to focus more on themselves and less on their inter-Christian and inter-faith relations.

The executive committee:
Received Doc. EC 07, as an accountability report.
Approved, as part of its constitutional mandate, Doc. EC 08, Summary of Programme Reports.

5.3 EAPPI

Dr Phiri introduced the update on EAPPI. A management assessment of EAPPI is included in the report. There is also a summary of findings of this assessment, finishing with a road map showing what has already been implemented. The ACT Alliance assessment is also cited. The EAPPI core group met in April and the findings of the report were shared with the group.

Dr Quawas reminded the group that the executive committee in November 2015 had asked that a follow-up report be shared with the executive committee. The evaluation report, which according to the earlier decision was to be shared with the executive committee, has not been shared. He expressed concern at the composition of the core group and on some managerial and financial issues. He stated that some corrections must be made.

The general secretary commented on issues related to the programme accountability report (EC 07). The management assessment, which was requested by the general secretary, was a report with details and information on persons involved. He therefore found it more appropriate to only present a summary. As a member of the audit committee, Dr Quawas could discuss certain questions directly with the general secretary, the whole of the executive committee did not need to embark on this discussion.

Dr Quawas referred to the earlier decision which was very clear. The local reference group were requesting an evaluation before August. This should be shared with the executive committee. Issues were not dealt with correctly. He continued by saying that the budget shows

1.4 million USD on the project, of which about 40 percent is spent on coordination and 60 percent used on the ground. There is still no recognised and adopted regulation for financial management. Criticism has been raised to the draft regulations, yet no decision has been made on an official guide for the management. The evaluation does not assess the efficiency of the project. EAPPI's administration is in Jerusalem.

Rev. Dr Paul Gardner (Moravian Church in Jamaica) said that this is a point of procedure. As this can be seen as privileged information, he was not sure whether this kind of information would be fruitful to all of us. However, reports on the management of funds would be interesting for the executive committee.

Bishop Dr Opoko said that there was a need to clarify these matters. If we can talk about the general secretary's suggestion, we can avoid having a long treatment of the issue at the central committee meeting. Such information does not belong here, if it is classified. However, if there is something wrong with this programme, we need to deal with it. Bishop Opoko proposed that Dr Quawas meet with the leadership group.

The general secretary explained that he had approved an agreed report with the EAPPI reference group (cf. Doc. EC 07 I.D). He then explained how the management assessment report was reached. It was not a full evaluation. Based on the reception of the report, we tried to take action as soon as possible, with the intention of focusing on what can be improved. This would be a normal way of dealing with management issues. His assessment of the main findings is listed in detail, including details on finances. For many of the issues raised in the report, there is a management assessment comment to the audit committee. Therefore, the general secretary did not find it necessary that the executive committee deal with the question, not in order to hide information from the committee, but rather in order to solve the issue as part of the management, before involving the executive committee.

The moderator referred to document EC 10 (Update on EAPPI) where the general secretary tries to respond to the management, not to the evaluation. The evaluation has not taken place, but there is a recommendation that this evaluation should take place. The general secretary proposes that the issues be brought up in the leadership.

Bishop Dr Opoko said that when Dr Quawas raises these issues after having read the report, the executive committee should deal with the issues, and not pretend that we do not have an issue. Dr Abuom said that she would allow Dr Quawas to meet with the leadership to discuss the issue before a potential treatment in the executive committee.

Bishop Petra Bosse-Huber said that two years earlier there was a similar situation. However, to allow one person to go deeper and deeper into an issue through discussing the specialised management questions means that we start mixing up leadership and management. We cannot solve this type of specialised questions here. Dr Abuom reiterated that this was a management assessment; we do not have an evaluation yet.

H.E. Metropolitan Prof. Dr Gennadios of Sassima (Ecumenical Patriarchate) said that normally the evaluation includes a management assessment. The general secretary responded that they were not able to facilitate the full evaluation, which they are now, and it will hopefully be ready for the November meeting of the executive committee.

Metropolitan Gennadios asked who would do the evaluation. If it is such a delicate matter, why isn't and independent body being appointed? Dr Phiri explained the road map planned for the evaluation, and that the evaluator has not yet been chosen. She asked whether this would be a sufficient response to the management questions.

The general secretary responded that not everything was dealt with in an ideal way, but for practical reasons and matters relating to personnel, they found that it was important to start assessing the management. They realised that an evaluation was needed, and that they will embark on this now. He did not want to bring this level of management assessment to the executive committee. The evaluation of EAPPI will take place later and the full report of this evaluation will be presented to the executive committee.

Ms Pirri-Simonian reminded the group that the questions raised by the management assessment already point to how the evaluation should be done. Bishop Bosse-Huber suggested that we let the assessment go, but undertake the evaluation in a sensitive way. However, she does not think we should leave the questions only to one person. Bishop Azariah underlined that the evaluation is something emerging now. It is clear that the assessment has been done. The missing link is that some of us are not aware of what the assessment is. There was a management assessment, which the general secretary undertook, this has been reported in EC 10.

The general secretary explained that he could undertake an assessment himself; he does it all the time with colleagues. However, he found it difficult and improper to bring the details to this table. The assessment had been forwarded to the auditors but they had found no information that had impact on the financial statement.

Dr Quawas drew attention to the fact that so far the executive committee had only discussed management issues. However, there is a deeper issue. The nature of the programme has changed – he felt it had rather become "the WCC tourist programme". It is true that there is a special audit of the programme, so there is not any issue of financial mismanagement. He said his intention is to get to the evaluation of the programme as it has developed over the last ten years.

Rev. Dr Hyun Ju Bae suggested moving forward by taking the discussion into the larger frame of the evaluation of the project. Metropolitan Gennadios said that the problems Dr Quawas mentioned have been raised before. We cannot any longer postpone responding this issue.

Mr Lemopoulos said that he could not accept that the programme is called a "tourist programme". People were arrested, people were expelled, and this does not happen to tourists. Dr Quawas pointed out that those who were arrested came for another programme, and the

general secretary says that EAPPI is the reason for arresting the participants, which makes it a political decision. This has put us under the direct supervision of the Israeli government. This is the opinion of the Palestinians and the NGOs working in Palestine and on the ground.

Dr Abuom added that because of the sensitivity of the matter, it has taken longer to carry out the evaluation.

The general secretary said that we all share the same concern for how the EAPPI functions. He is not surprised that there are difficult decisions on questions of how to recruit, train people and make them spend their time during their three-month stay. There is a need to look at the whole programme but the full evaluation of the programme has not yet taken place for practical reasons. We have reported before, and the reports have not always been accepted as proper. There is a need to do it properly. He apologized for the delay but stated that there are a number of pending management questions that require attention. His hope was to bring a full evaluation report to the November meeting. He asked that the committee not see this problem beyond what it is. There were mixed reasons for the detention of WCC programme participants; one of them was connected to EAPPI.

The executive committee asked that the work on the evaluation continue according to the guidelines given by the executive committee. The executive committee received Doc. No. EC 10 Update on EAPPI.

5.4 Update on the Ecumenical Diakonia Document

Dr Phiri introduced Doc. No. EC 11 Update on the Ecumenical Diakonia and presented an outline of the document. The executive committee was invited to comment on the document.

Ms Pirri-Simonian asked how diakonia as part of the essence of the church would be communicated. She also asked how the churches are involved. Dr Phiri explained that the document will be properly introduced to the churches and the plan is for it to continue to grow.

The executive committee received the Doc. No. EC 11 Update on the Ecumenical Diakonia Document.

5.5 Towards the Mid-Term Evaluation and renewal of the WCC Strategic Plan

Mr Doug Chial, income monitoring and development (IMD) manager, presented the Doc. No. GEN PRC 03 Towards the mid-term evaluation and renewal of the WCC Strategic Plan. The document discusses process, roles and timelines for the mid-term evaluation. The goal of the mid-term evaluation is to assess how the 2014-2017 Strategic Plan has enhanced the work of the WCC. The basic mandate is to evaluate the outcome of the period and to serve as a reference for renewing the WCC programmes for the period 2018-2021.

The document will be presented both to the policy reference committee and the governance and nominations committee of the central committee for decision.

Dr Abuom asked whether the two central committee members and a representative from the specialized ministries would comprise the whole evaluation team. Mr Chial explained that they are eager for the central committee to take this forward, so the team be appointed and help bring the process forward and be your eyes and ears in this process. He also mentioned the role of the external expert in the evaluation. The central committee will be asked to nominate three of the members. They form the evaluation team. Its final form is the responsibility of the executive committee; those five persons are there to assist the evaluation

Ms Teny Pirri-Simonian asked about the expected outcome of the evaluation.

Mr Chial said that one aim would be to strengthen what will become a Strategic Plan for 2018-2021. The evaluation will therefore address strategic objectives. This is described in the introductions of the terms of reference.

Doc. No. GEN PRC 03 Towards the mid-term evaluation and renewal of the WCC Strategic Plan was received and will go to the central committee.

5.6 Report of the Solidarity Visit to the United States

Rev. Dr Wolters informed the committee that the report on the solidarity visit to the United States was included in the sharing.

6. Governance Matters

6.1 Matters Arising from the Executive Minutes

Dr Audeh B Quawas asked whether one issue, on 9.5.2 Membership Matters on p. 115 of the approved minutes is missing or whether it has been dealt with. The issue is on how to proceed with the Church of Jesus Christ on Earth by His Special Envoy Simon Kimbangu (Kimbanguist Church).

The general secretary explained that the issue has been dealt with and it can be seen in the report to the central committee on membership matters.

6.2 Policies on Representation

Mr Lemopoulos reminded the committee that they had reflected on current policies and practices, recognizing the need for a common discourse on how we work toward representation

in WCC governing and consultative bodies, particularly in the midst of the member churches' diverse understandings and practices related to representation. This reflection was also to inform the process of the mid-term election of executive committee (2016).

The executive committee finalized the wording of a questionnaire soliciting responses to key issues around representation and recommended that this questionnaire be sent to all member churches, members of the governing and consultative bodies, as well as to ecumenical partners. A consolidated report assessing responses was to be presented to this meeting of the central committee for further discussion.

Unfortunately, as of May 2016, only 21 responses were received which do not constitute a critical mass for a reliable assessment of a complex issue. After the central committee, meeting a reminder will be sent and as soon as a sufficient number of responses are received, a report will be presented to the executive committee.

6.3 ACT Alliance Membership Strategy and Some Key Membership Issues

Dr John Nduna, general secretary of ACT Alliance, introduced the Doc. No. EC 12 ACT Alliance Membership Strategy and some Key Membership Issues. He gave some background information and introduced the membership strategy, and what the members commit themselves to do. Three strategic goals were highlighted: moderate membership growth, improving quality and accountability through meaningful participation in life and decision-making, and building a sustainable ACT Alliance as part of a broader movement. Governing bodies, committees and members are all key elements for implementing the strategy.

Dr Nduna also pointed out some key membership issues, like barriers to members' engagement mostly related to the policy of funding, such as membership fee. The proposed solution implies a model where members can contribute according to potential. Another discussion is about widening the criteria for membership, in order to enable wider membership of mission organisations and for churches and organisations otherwise not meeting the criteria. One of the main proposals of the ACT Alliance is strategies to enable a culture of engagement.

Dr Quawas said that there is a problem when his church has to declare 100% of their total income. Unfortunately not all churches have an office to do so, which is true not least for Orthodox churches. It is a question whether it would be possible to allow churches to join, who for reasons of conflict, occupation or other reasons on the grounds do not fulfil the membership criteria.

Ms Pirri-Simonian said that her experience is that churches which are in a difficult situation have applied for collaboration and received negative responses, because they are not members. Do churches in such situations really need to be members of ACT Alliance when they are members of the WCC?

Dr Nduna responded that this kind of reflection is going on around the church membership model. You will find that support has been given to smaller organisations, which may include churches. The cries have been heard and something is being done, so that not being a member does not mean that they will be excluded from the funds that come for development work. He further clarified that the ACT Alliance is not directly a funding organisation for churches. There needs to be a sign of commitment from the members, they need to comply with certain obligations, but churches in a reality of disaster can work through ACT members and the churches can be partners to those ACT members.

Ms Pirri-Simonian explained that there used to be a commission on inter-church aid, refugee and world service (CICARWS) in WCC, and when ACT was created, it was thought to be complimentary to that. Should we not have a responsive agency to that question? There seems to be a vacuum here now.

Dr Nduna said that the ACT Alliance is actively present in 120-130 countries at the moment. When a disaster occurs and churches are present in these countries, it is likely that there will be a member of the ACT Alliance present. As such, it seems that the whole of the ecumenical movement seems to be appreciating the presence of the ACT Alliance, particularly because of its accountability.

Bishop Azariah gave thanks for the opportunity to be in touch with the ACT Alliance in these countries. He asked whether churches have an opportunity to receive capacity building supporting order to meet criteria for membership, or whether they have to find a way of doing this themselves. In a national situation where there is a church collaborating with an American or European organisation, what happens then?

Dr Nduna said that some churches, especially small churches, who do not really have the capacity, do not engage in humanitarian work. Of course, they try to respond in some ways. But there are criteria to be met in order to be part of ACT Alliance. However, in a meeting in Bangkok there were churches present who are not members, in order to awaken the interest in developing their capacity. We do not build capacity with any church, there has to be some interest on the part of the church. If there is, capacity can be built in order to obtain membership.

Dr Nduna continued to share that there are some countries who do not have members, especially Muslim countries. However, where there are no churches, there may have specialised ministries. The church might also be there, but may be very small. What is important is the humanitarian imperative. It does not matter what part of the community is helped, it is based on the humanitarian principle.

<u>The executive committee received the report.</u>

7. Dates and Venues for Future Governing Body Meetings

Mr Lemopoulos gave an overview over the proposed dates for the coming governing body meetings. Some discussion took place regarding dates colliding with important events, and some clarifications were made regarding dates including arrivals and departures.

7.1 Executive Committee meeting in Bossey, Switzerland, June 2017:

The following dates were agreed: 5-10 June 2017, with arrivals on June 5, departures on June 10.

7.2 Executive Committee meeting, November 2017:

An open invitation has been received from the Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem to receive the meeting in Amman, Jordan. For those who want to visit Petra on an excursion, they should include an additional day before the meeting on November 16.

The following dates were agreed: (16) 17-22 November 2017.

7.3 Central Committee, Executive Committee and Assembly Planning Committee meetings 2018:

June 12: arrivals for the executive committee
June 13-14: executive committee meeting
June 14: arrivals central committee
June 15-21: central committee meeting
June 22-25: assembly planning committee meeting
June 26: departures assembly planning committee

8. Closed session

Dr Agnes Abuom introduced the session.

8.1 STAFFING REPORT

Appointment under the responsibility of the executive committee

The general secretary shared a staffing report, which informs the executive committee of vacancies, appointments, elections, arrivals and departures. Rev. Dr Hielke Wolters, who has brought considerable management skills to the job, and the current deputy general secretary, Mr Georges Lemopoulos, are leaving in the course of the year. In order to replace them, it is necessary to find people who have the skills and the commitment to carry the work forward. There is a need for management capacities. There are also many issues that the general secretary cannot follow up, which requires a senior capacity who can follow the day-to-day work, as well as serve and follow up the work of the governing bodies. After a careful selection process, the candidature of Mr Stanley J. Noffsinger, Church of the Brethren, USA, is submitted to the executive committee for appointment as director of the office of the general secretariat.

The executive committee appointed the candidate for a period of five years.

Election of Deputy General Secretaries

The general secretary explained that the need for deputy general secretary (ies) to be present in Geneva is less than before. The function of the general secretary is easier, even if and when the general secretary is not in office.

According to WCC Rule XI. 3, the general secretary will recommend to the central committee the election of two deputy general secretaries: Fr. Prof. Dr Ioan Sauca, who will also be responsible for the programme area on Unity, Mission, Ecumenical Formation and Ecumenical Relations, and Prof. Dr Isabel Apawo Phiri, who will also be responsible of the programme area on Public Witness and Diakonia.

The general secretary added that the staff leadership group would be composed of the general secretary, the deputy general secretaries, the director of finance, the director of communications and the director of the office of the general secretariat. His understanding is that it is a large enough staff leadership group.

H.E. Metropolitan Dr Gennadios said that in the past, after the Vancouver assembly, there were three deputies, two men and a woman. There was a kind of seniority between the three not reflected in their titles, but there was a clear understanding of it. The general secretary suggested that there be a clear hierarchy according to seniority, but that it should not be reflected in the titles.

Bishop Petra Bosse-Huber asked whether there is enough staff, sufficient human resources at all levels, to do all the work. This goes for the leadership level, as well as for all other levels. It is a question with regard to our future – can we really work in a healthy and sufficient way?

Ms Pirri-Simonian noted that in the staff leadership group the representation of programmes is much less than the management representation.

The general secretary said that the general secretary, the two deputies and the director of communications would sufficiently represent programmes in the leadership team.

Dr Abuom asked if the changes have implications for our work with the members and partners. The general secretary said that staff is competent. However, we see that there are limits. It is true that staff cannot and should not take on more. More work cannot be put on the programme executive staff as staff become vulnerable when working beyond our limits.

The executive committee endorsed the general secretary's recommendation for the election of two deputy general secretaries.

Update on appointments and extensions of contract since the last executive committee.

The executive committee received the Doc. No. EC 14 Update on Appointments and Extensions of Contract.

Mid-term Election of the Executive Committee

The general secretary introduced the issue and reminded the executive committee of the sensitivity of the issue. Normally the general secretary does not coordinate this election, however, the executive committee requested as much information be brought to the table as possible, and there are requirements and balances to be met, which were taken into account in the current proposal for rotation of the executive committee.

Firstly, the general secretary informed the committee that the Rev. Dr Sharon Watkins, moderator of the programme committee will be stepping down, and in order to fill this position, when requirements and balances have been taken into account, Bishop Petra Bosse-Huber is suggested to replace her.

The executive committee agreed that this proposal be forwarded to the central committee for decision.

Bishop Dr Chibuzo Raphael Opoko inquired about Rev. Dr Micheline Kamba Kasongo (Église du Christ au Congo – Communauté presbytérienne de Kinshasa), who has a heart and a commitment, but cannot be here because she cannot get a visa for Schengen. Whenever we meet in the Schengen zone she will be absent, unless this decision can be reversed. Bishop Opoko said that he believes in dislocation, and would step down himself, but for Dr Kasongo he asked that we need to see what can be done.

Mr Lemopoulos explained that a letter has been received from the Council of Churches in DRC, pleading for Rev. Dr Kasongo's situation and that the issue of visa for her needs to be solved. He added that WCC will definitely continue to struggle with the visa issue. However, Rev. Dr Kamba's membership in the central committee, the CCIA, EDAN, and the executive committee, should be looked at from a regional perspective. It would be therefore better that a proposal comes from the meeting of central committee members from Africa.

The proposal to take this particular matter to the region was accepted.

Dr Quawas asked whether more changes could be possible, in order to reach the number of thirteen, which would be in accordance with the regulations.

The general secretary explained that it would be difficult this time, but will become easier next time, since the decision then will be decided by rule. It is important to make efforts to find someone who represents one or two of the categories. Replacing Dr Kasongo, because she holds many categories, should not be seen as impossible. It is an institutional problem if a person is to be replaced with one who can replace all the categories.

Dr Abuom said that we have not yet reached the thirteen, but we may reach twelve candidates for rotation, which was very close to two thirds. It is a difficult matter when it is being done the first time. Dr Quawas disagreed, because the larger churches will continue to insist on replacing their members with another one.

Mr Lemopoulos informed the group that if the moderator of the programme committee is elected first, then the election of the rotation can take place.

The executive committee endorsed that the list be presented to the central committee.

Assembly Planning Committee

After some discussion, the executive committee agreed on a list of nominees to be presented to the central committee for decision.

Assembly Planning Worship Committee

Regarding the assembly planning worship committee Mr Lemopoulos explained that the candidates who are not members of the central committee come from member churches or ecumenical partners, and fall into the category of worship animators.

After some discussion, the executive committee agreed on a list of nominees to be presented to the central committee for decision.

Mid-term Evaluation Team

The list of nominations for the mid-term evaluation team was approved.

Appointment of Search Committee for New General Secretary

After discussion, it was agreed that the matter of appointing a search committee be postponed until the next central committee meeting.

Dr Abuom reminded that there is an inconsistency in the rules, in terms of the tenure of the general secretary, which should be reflected upon. It is an issue of synchronisation. It is difficult to start the process of electing a new general secretary three and half years before the term ends as this can disturb the focus on the work. This is the last period where there is lack of synchronisation, so the issue does not need to be brought up unless unexpected things happen.

9. Closing Actions

Dr Abuom went on to thank the executive committee members for their work, and she looked forward to the continuation in different or in the same positions. She asked the members to keep in mind that among the central committee members are many proxies, and to support them. She wished Archbishop Aykazian farewell on his way to other duties.
The meeting closed with a song "Bind us together with bonds that cannot be broken".

The closing prayer was led by Bishop Samuel Robert Azariah.

APPENDIX: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Leadership: Dr Agnes Abuom, Moderator
Metropolitan Prof. Dr Gennadios of Sassima, Vice-Moderator
Bishop Dr Mary Ann Swenson, Vice-Moderator
Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, General Secretary

Members: Dr Abba Haile Mariam Melese Ayenew
Archbishop Vicken Aykazian
Bishop Samuel Robert Azariah
Rev. Dr Hyun Ju Bae
Bishop Petra Bosse-Huber
Rev. Dr Paul Gardner
Archpriest Mikhail Goundiaev
Rev. Dr Henriette Hutabarat-Lebang
Mr Thomas Hyeono Kang
Prof. Dr Marina Kolovopoulou
Rev. Martina Viktorie Kopecká
Bishop Dr Chibuzo Raphael Opoko
Bishop Simo Peura
Ms Teny Pirri-Simonian
Dr Audeh B. Quawas
Bishop John F. White

Ex officio: Rev. Dr Sharon Watkins

Advisers: Dr John Nduna, ACT Alliance

Apologies: Archbishop Dr Nareg Alemezian
Rev. Dr Micheline Kamba Kasongo
Rev. Baoping Kan
Rev. Taaroanui Maraea
Metropolitan Prof. Dr Nifon of Targoviste

Minute-taker: Ms Beate Fägerli

Staff:

Rev. Fr Daniel Buda
Mr Douglas Chial
Ms Elaine Dykes
Ms Marianne Ejdersten
Mr Georges Lemopoulos
Prof. Dr Isabel Phiri
Rev. Garland Pierce
Fr Prof. Dr Ioan Sauca
Rev. Dr Hielke Wolters